



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/653,827	09/01/2000	Glenn D. Rasmussen	240703-1110	6068

23506 7590 03/28/2005

GARDNER GROFF, P.C.
2018 POWERS FERRY ROAD
SUITE 800
ATLANTA, GA 30339

EXAMINER

TO, BAOQUOC N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/653,827	Applicant(s) RASMUSSEN, GLENN D.	
	Examiner Baoquoc N To	Art Unit 2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/18, 11/22 of 04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-44 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/18/2004 and 11/22/2004. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 09/28/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues "event if one skilled in the art combines Mullins and Fink, he would still fail to provide a metadata model transformer or method for transforming a metadata models as recited in claims 9 and 36"

The examiner disagrees with the above argument. Mullins discloses "the object schema 200 is accessed by object application 101 through an abstract layer 600...this abstraction layer allow both kinds of data stores-object and non-object (e.g. relational)-to be accessed identically from at least one object application 101" (col. 4, lines 10-14). This suggests the two layers of abstractions. Finks discloses "the next process iteration results in a more refined data warehouse specific to a particular client application. As a result of client interaction or engagement, the SME refines the business rule metadata to reflect the client's business and DIA refines the characteristics of the data and identifies the client specific data sources. The DIA also refines the cleansing, transformation and householding metadata selection and creates additional cleansing,

Art Unit: 2162

transformation, and householding metadata as identified through client interaction. All of the resulting metadata modifications are stored in the metadata of the database management system" (col. 8, lines 19-29). This suggests the concept of both transformation and refining the business rules according to the user application. Since both applications are in the same field of endeavor; therefore, modification of Mullins is required to prove the system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8, 35 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins (US. Patent No. 5,857,197) in view of Baisley et al. (US. Patent No. 6,292,932 B1).

Regarding on claim 1, 35 and 43-44, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer for transforming a metadata model, the transformer comprising:

a lower-to-higher transformation having:

means for obtaining information of a lower abstraction model object in the lower layer of a metadata model having a lower layer containing one or more lower degree of abstraction model objects having and a higher layer containing one or more higher abstraction model objects having a higher abstraction (col. 4, lines 33-67); and means for creating a model object in the higher layer a higher corresponding to

Art Unit: 2162

the model object in the lower layer (col. 4, lines 33-67).

Mullins does not explicitly teach means for abstracting the information by adding business rules for representing a business concept. However, Baisley teaches "UML may be used to model metamodels, which will later need to be translated into MOF metamodels. The present invention provides a set of rules for making such a transformation" (col. 3, lines 25-28). This suggests the transforming of metamodels utilizing transformation rules. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mullins system to include the transformation rules in order to provide the transformation rules to transform a metadata model as taught by Baisley in order to provide a model to allow application to process according to user input.

Regarding on claim 2, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer comprising:
a lower layer transformation having:
means for obtaining information from model object in the lower layer (col. 4, lines 33-67);

means for modifying the obtained information (col. 4, lines 33-67); and
means for transforming the model object in a lower layer based on the modified information (col. 4, lines 33-67).

Regarding on claim 3, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer comprising:
a lower layer transformation having:
means for obtaining information from a model objects in the lower layer (col. 4, lines 33-66);

Art Unit: 2162

means for determining a specific feature included in the obtained information (col. 4, line 33-66); and

means for creating a new model object based in the lower layer on the specific feature (col. 4, lines 33-66).

Regarding on claim 4, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer comprising:
a lower layer transformation having:

means for obtaining relationship information between multiple model objects in the lower layer (col. 4, lines 33-66); and

means for creating a new model object in the higher layer based on the relationship information (col. 4, lines 33-66).

Regarding on claim 5, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a higher layer transformation having:

means for obtaining information of a model object in the higher layer (col. 4, lines 44-66)-,

means for modifying the obtained information (col. 4, lines 33-66)., and

Means for transforming the higher abstraction model object based on the modified information (col. 4, lines 33-66).

Regarding on claim 6, Mullins teach metadata model transformer as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

a higher layer transformation having:

means for obtaining information of a higher abstraction model objects from the

Art Unit: 2162

higher layer (col. 4, lines 33-66);

means for determining a specific feature included in the obtained information

(col. 4, lines 33-66); and

means for creating a new higher abstraction model object based on the specific feature (col. 4, lines 33-66).

Regarding on claim 7, Mullins teaches a metadata model transformer further comprising:

a higher layer transformation having:

means for obtaining relationship information between multiple higher abstraction model objects from the higher layer (col. 4, lines 33-66);and

means for creating a new higher abstraction model object based on the relationship information (col. 4, lines 33-66).

Regarding on claim 8, Mullins teach a metadata model transformer further comprising:

a higher layer transformation having:

means for selecting a subset of the higher abstraction model objects from the higher layer (col. 4, lines 33-66); and

means for creating a new higher abstraction model object based on the selected subset of the higher abstraction model objects (col. 4, lines 33-66),

5. Claims 9-21, 24-33 and 36-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins et al. (US. Patent No. 5,857,197) in view of Fink (US.

Patent No. 6,490,590).

Regarding on claims 9 and 36, Mullins teaches a metadata model transformer for transforming a metadata model that represents one or more data sources having physical data the transformation comprising:

one or more data access model transformations for refining description of the physical data in the data source expressed by data access model objects in a metadata model having a data access layer containing the data access model objects having a lower degree of abstraction, a business layer containing business model objects having a higher degree of abstraction compared to the data access model objects, and a package containing package model objects (col. 4, lines 33-48);

one or more data access to business model transformations for constructing business model objects based on the data access model objects (col. 4, lines 33-48);

one or more business model transformations for refining the business rules expressed by the business model objects (col. 4, lines 33-48); and

one or more business to package model transformations for constructing package model objects based on the business model objects (col. 4, lines 33-38).

Although, Mullins does not explicitly teach the refining the business rules;

however, Fink teaches, "SME refines the business rule metadata to reflect the client's business" (col. 8, lines 20-22). This teaches the refines business rule metadata.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinal skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mullins to include refining business rules of Fink because refining rule metadata would allow the creation of the object model in order to aid the

Art Unit: 2162

business application.

Regarding on claims 10 and 37, Mullins teaches the data access model transformations refines the description by adding new data access model objects to data access model objects which are constructed via import from the data sources or one or more metadata sources (col. 4, lines 33-48).

Regarding on claims 11 and 38, Fink teaches the business model transformations refine the business rules by changing the business model objects (col. 8, lines 20-22).

Regarding on claims 12 and 39, Mullins teaches the business model objects include business model objects which are constructed via import from one or more metadata sources (col. 4, lines 8-20).

Regarding on claims 13 and 40, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer further comprising:

one or more package model transformations for constructing a new package model object based on the package model objects in the model (col. 4, lines 33-48).

Regarding on claims 14 and 41, Mullins teaches the package model objects include package model objects which are constructed via import from one or more metadata sources (col. 4, lines 33-48).

Regarding on claims 15 and 42, Mullins teaches metadata model transformer further comprising: a name mutation transformation for changing names of objects in the model based on user defined rules (col. 4, lines 33-48).

Regarding on claim 16, Mullins teaches the data access model transformations

Art Unit: 2162

include a transformation which creates a new data access model object based on the data access model objects contained in the data access layer (col. 4, lines 33-48).

Regarding on claim 17, Mullins teaches the data sources contain tables having columns and indexes, the data access model objects include data access tables, data access columns and data access indexes which respectively describe information about the tables, columns and indexes in the data sources; and the data access model transformations include a data access join constructing transformation for constructing a data access join between data access tables based on the data' access indexes (col. 4, lines 8-20).

Regarding on claim 18, Mullins teaches the data sources contain tables having columns and indexes', the data access model objects include data access tables, data access columns and data access indexes which respectively describe information about the tables, columns and indexes in the data sources', and the data access model transformations include a data access key constructing transformation for creating a data access key fot a data access table based on the data access indexes (col. 4, lines 8-20).

Regarding on claim 19, Mullins teaches the data sources contain at least one of tables having columns and indexes, views having columns or files having columns or fields:

the data access model objects include at least one of data access tables, data access views, data access files, data access columns and data access indexes which respectively describe information about the tables, columns of the tables, indexes of the

Art Unit: 2162

tables, the views, the columns of the views, the files, and the columns or fields of the files in the data sources' and the data access model transformations include a table extract constructing transformation for constructing a table extract based on the data access tables, the data access views and the data access files (col. 4, lines 8-20).

Regarding on claim 20, Mullins teaches the data access model objects include one or more logical cube, each of which defines a multidimensional space represented in a number of physical storage formats (14, lines 32-48); and

the data access model transformations include a data access cube constructing transformation for constructing data access cubes to instantiate the multidimensional space defined by each logical cube (col. 4, lines 32-48) .

Regarding on claim 21, Mullins teaches the data access to business model transformations include a basic business model constructing transformation which obtains information about a data access model object in the data access layer, and create a business model object corresponding to the data access model object (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 24, Mullins teaches the business model objects include one or more redundant joins that express the transitivity of two or more other join relationships in the business layer (col. 4, lines 32-48): and

the business model transformations include a redundant join relationship eliminating transformation for locating the redundant joins, and eliminating the redundant joins from the business layer (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 25, Mullins teaches the business model transformations

Art Unit: 2162

include a subclass relationship introducing transformation for introducing new entity with a subclass relationship into the business layer (14, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 26, Mullins teaches the business model objects include an entity acting as a lookup table with respect to the other entity, and a business join between the entities, the business join is an associate type; and the business model transformations include an entity referencing transformation for locating the entity acting as a lookup table, and changing the business join which is an association type to a business join which is a reference type (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 27, Mullins teaches the business model transformations include an attribute usage determining transformation for determines the usage of an attribute based on how it is used by other business model objects (col. 4, lines 50-64).

Regarding on claim 28, Mullins teaches the business model transformations include a date usage identifying transformation for examining attributes to determine where dates are used in the attributes (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 29, Mullins teaches the business to package model transformations include a basic package model constructing transformation for constructing a package layer by forming a package with package model objects which corresponds to a subset of the business model objects (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 30, Mullins teaches the package model transformations include a special package construction transformation for constructing a specific package which is usable by a specific client application from a generic package (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 31, Mullins teaches one or more multidimensional model transformations for a multidimensional model (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 32, Mullins teaches the multidimensional model transformations include a measure identifying and measure dimension constructing transformation for analyzing the structure of each data source to identify entities that contain measure candidates and identifying a reasonable set of measures (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 33, Mullins teaches the multidimensional model transformations include a category dimension and level constructing transformation for analyzing each data source, and constructing dimensions and levels for the source model (col. 4, lines 32-48).

Regarding on claim 34, Mullins teaches the multidimensional model transformations include a logical cube constructing transformation for constructing a set of logical cubes based on the dimensions in a corresponding data source (col. 4, lines 32-48).

6. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins et al. (US. Patent No. 5,847,197) in view of Fink (US. Patent No. 6,490,590) and further in view of Henninger et al. (US. Patent NO. 5,499,371).

Regarding on claim 22, Both Mullins and Fink do not explicitly teach the business model objects include entities that exist as an implementation artifact of a many to many relationship, and many to many business joins associated with the entities', and the business model transformations include a many to many join relationship fixing

Art Unit: 2162

transformation for locating the entities, and replacing the associated many to many business joins with a single business join. However, Henninger, teaches, "for each many-to-many relationship in the object model, a separate join table is added to the data base schema" (col. 8, lines 51-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Mullins by including Henniger in order to provide for using an object model of an object-oriented application to automatically map information between an object-oriented application and a structured database, such as relational database.

Regarding on claim 23, Henninger teaches the business model objects include entities that are related via a 1 :1 join relationship (col. 8, lines 48-51)-, and the business model transformations include an entity coalescing transformation for locating the entities that are related via a 1:1 join relationship, and coalescing the located entities into a single entity (col. 8, lines 48-51).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baoquoc N. To whose telephone number is at 571-272-4041 or via e-mail BaoquocN.To@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached at 571-272-4107.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

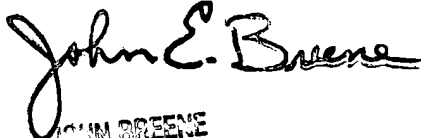
Washington, D.C. 20231.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follow:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Baoquoc N. To

March 18, 2005


JOHN BREENE
BUREAU OF PATENT EXAMINATION
TECHNOLOGY CENTER